

Illinois Interagency Coordination Center 2006 Year-End Report



**United States Forest Service
Midewin National Tall Grass Prairie
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
United States National Park Service
Illinois Department of Natural Resources**



Illinois Interagency Coordination Center 2006 Year End Report

The year 2006 had many adjustments and many firsts for the Illinois Interagency Coordination Center. The first half of the year, the dispatch center was impacted with a continuous rotation of detailers to fill in until the new Center Manager and Initial Attack Dispatcher arrived. During that time, the center supported local wildland and prescribed fires, regional fires and burns, as well as national incidents from Katrina Recovery to the devastating wildfires in Texas and Oklahoma. The second half of the year was busy mobilizing equipment, crews, and overhead to the Southwest, Northern Rockies, California, Pacific Northwest, Eastern Great Basin, Southern, and Rocky Mountain regions in support of wildfire activity. Local wildfires, prescribed fire preparations, RX ignitions, getting the new Dispatchers familiar with the Coordination Center, organizing the center to meet their needs and goals, and finding a new building for the relocation of the dispatch center provided a busy conclusion to 2006.

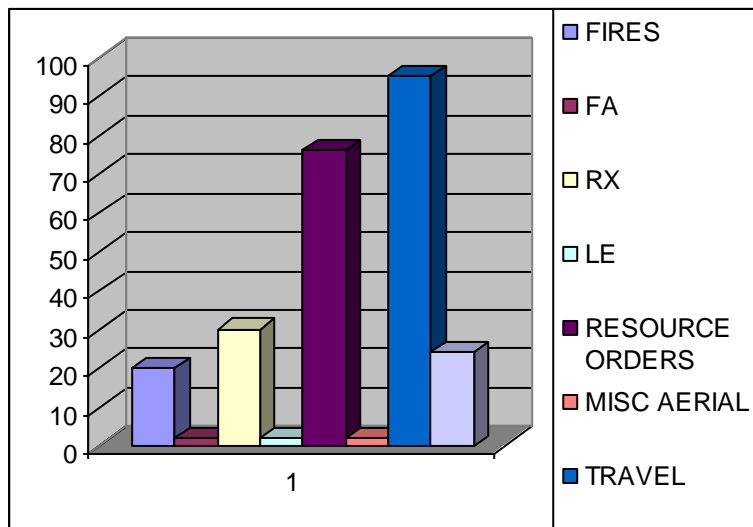
The first fire of the year was on February 22 and the final one on December 16. The dispatch center participated in 20 wildland fires burning 204 acres and 30 prescribed fire projects with 3569 acres burned for the Shawnee National Forest. The Midewin National Tall Grass Prairie had 4 fires for 19 acres and 4 Rx projects for 726 acres. Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge had 7 RX projects burning 501 acres. In 2006 no proper procedures were set up between the State and ILC to report their Rx or Wildfire incidents (will begin in 2007), however the state did implement 250 prescribed fire incidents burning approx 12,000 acres and had 34 wildfires for 754 acres. The Illinois Interagency Coordination Center processed 139 Incident Actions which included: Resource Orders, Wildfire Suppression, Prescribed Fire Support, Law Enforcement, Public Assists, Aircraft Flight Following, and Miscellaneous incidents.

One of the most exciting things which occurred was the very first ever Illinois Interagency Type 2 Crew being dispatched twice, once to Minnesota and once to Idaho. These crews incorporated individuals from the Shawnee

National Forest, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, as well as local AD's (emergency firefighters). Another first was the use of a Type III helicopter on the Forest which assisted in the GPS of resource damage to the Shawnee National Forest due to tornado activity. The Forest also utilized a FUTA (Fire Use Training Academy) team which assisted in the completion of prescribed fire projects.

ILC placed 42 resource orders on 9 Local Incidents and training classes with the GACC. Of these, 31 were for overhead (3 cancelled), 6 for Engines (1 cancelled) and 5 for Aircraft (2 cancelled). The GACC in return placed 106 resource orders with ILC which 84 were filled, 15 we were unable to fill and 7 which were cancelled. A large amount of the workload consisted of arranging 95 flights for individuals filling resource orders. Depending on the location, time, and fire traffic, it can take anywhere from 30 minutes to 3 hours to get all the arrangement made and into ROSS (per person). Hiring Ad's is another process which took up a considerable amount of time in dispatch. From the start of the paperwork, until the time and travel is sent off, and the individual gets paid, it takes anywhere between 1-3 hours, depending on circumstances.

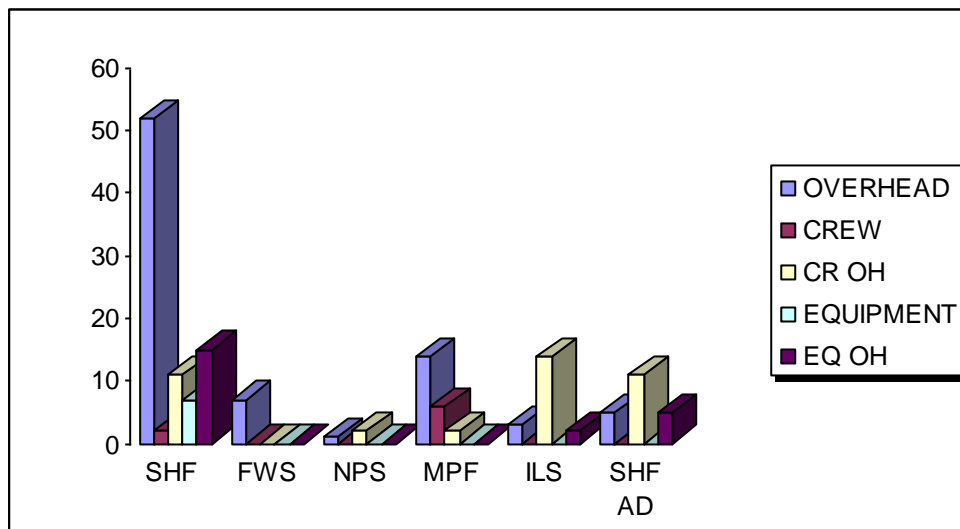
ILC 2006 WORKLOAD



AGENCY PARTICIPATION:

2006 was a very good year for interagency participation in wildland fire activity, prescribed fire programs as well as training classes. The Helicopter Crewmember training course sponsored by the Shawnee National Forest included agencies such as the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Countryside Fire Protection District, local Ad's, the Superior National Forest, Hoosier National Forest, Shawnee National Forest and individuals as far as from California. There were six agencies involved in the organization of the Type 2 and Type 2IA crew, the fill of Engines, individual overhead orders, and in the assistance to the Midewin Interagency HotShot crew. With this participation, we were able to get individuals qualified as ICT5, HECM, FFT1, FIRB, FFT2, ENGB, SCKN, RADO, EDSO, as well as get task book documentation for CRWB, SECM, ICT4's, DIVS, ENGB, HECM, FFT1, PSC1, IARR, TFLD, STLD, PIOF, PTRC, FIRB, and STEN.

2006 AGENCY RESOURCE ORDER PARTICIPATION

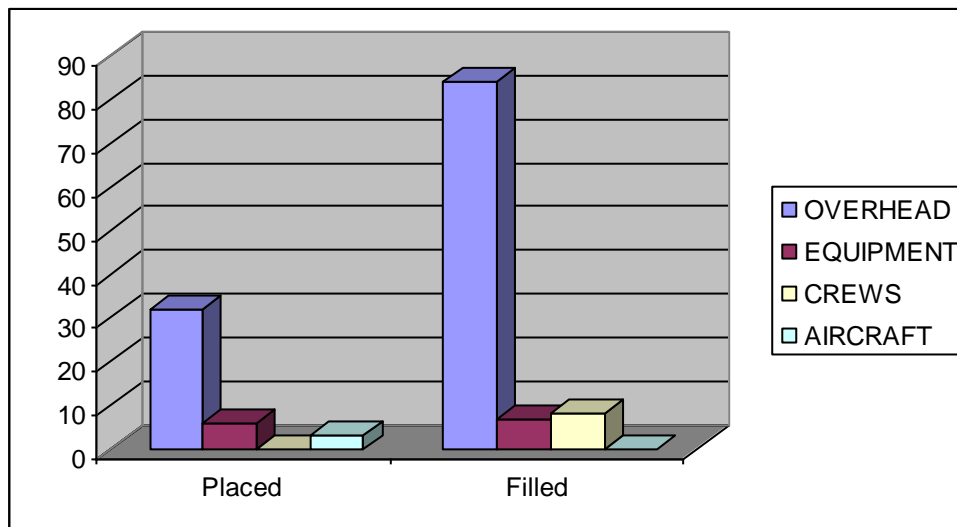


RESOURCE ORDERING

2006 was an average year for the dispatch center in processing resource orders locally and a little above nationally. The majority of resources sent historically have been overhead and 2006 was no exception. As we get more folks qualified in various positions, I suspect these numbers will continue to increase.

In 2006 ILC Processed orders for 71 off forest incidents totaling 6 Engine fills, 8 Crew Fills, and 70 individual overhead fills, with 15 UTF's and 7 orders which were cancelled. ILC also made travel arrangements for 95 individuals (including crewmembers). Total personnel ILC mobilized: 252.

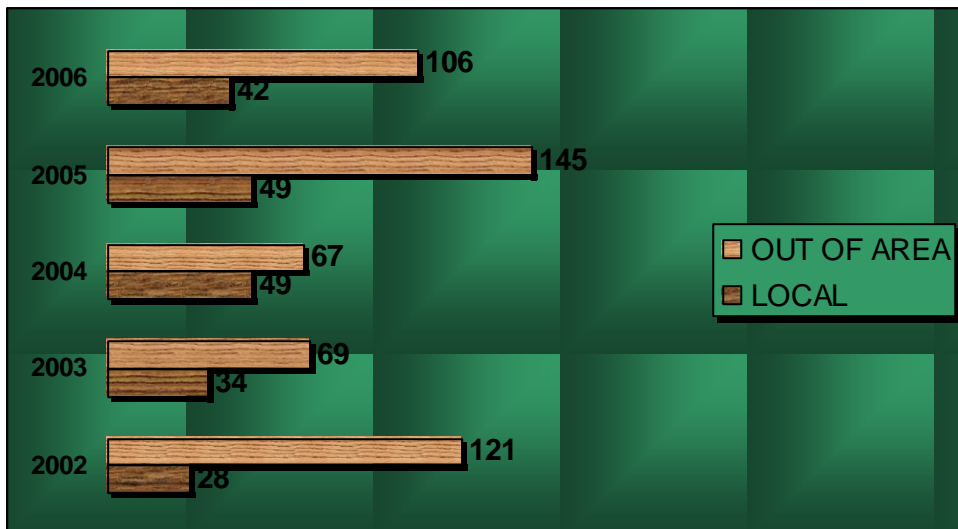
2006 RESOURCE ORDERS PLACED WITH GACC AND FILLED FOR GACC



OVERHEAD AGENCY FILLS (Some ILS Individual Overhead were counted as AD's)

	ENGINE	CREW	IND. OH
SHF	15	11	49
ILS	2	14	1
MPF	0	2	14
NPS	0	2	1
FWS	0	0	7
AD	5	11	8

HISTORICAL RESOURCE ORDERS SINCE ILC STARTED

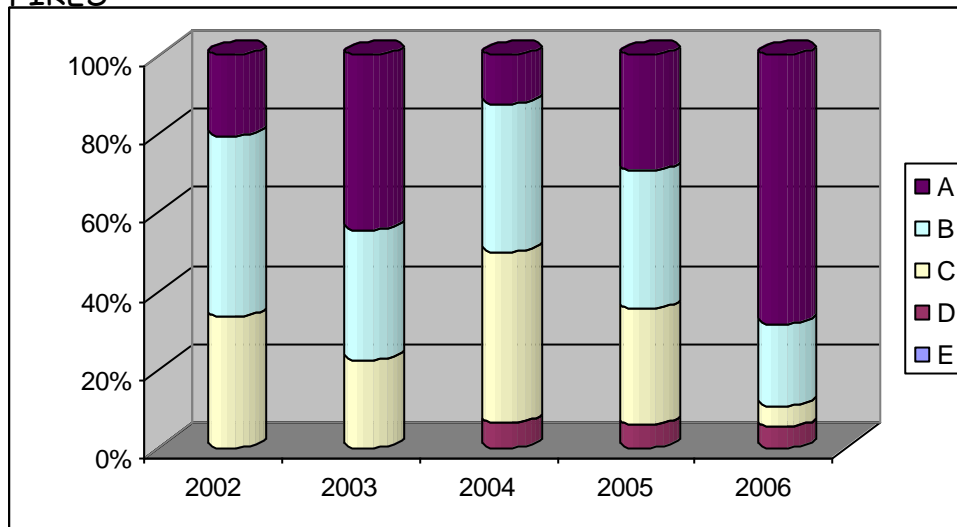


FIRE ACTIVITY

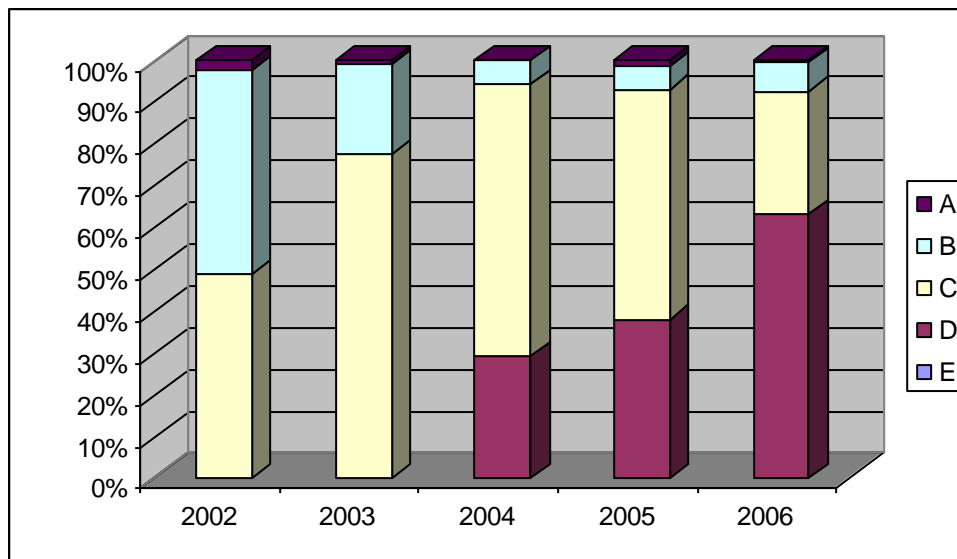
In 2006 we saw more Class A fires than in the last five years; however acres burned were about average. In the past, the majority of acres burned were from Class C fires however in 2006 the majority of our acres burned were from class D fires.

5 - Year Averages: Fires and Acres

FIRES



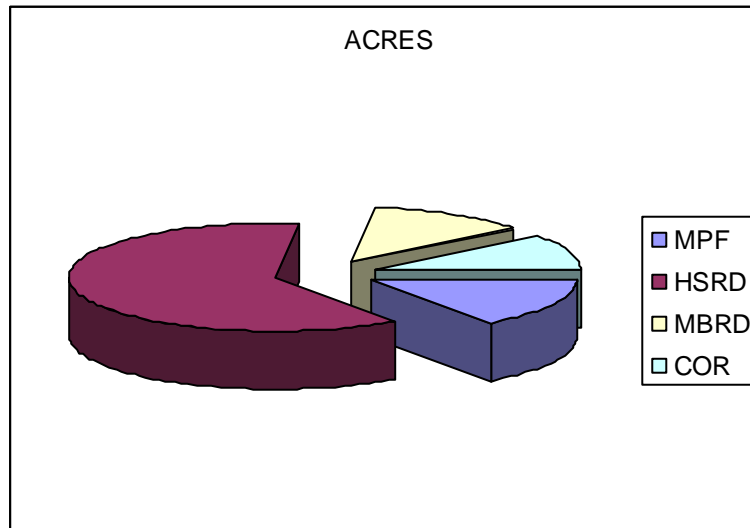
ACRES



Cause	HSRD		MBRD		MPF		COR	
	#	Ac	#	Ac	#	Ac	#	Ac
Human	13	194.8	6	9.1	4	19	0	0
Lightning	0	0	1	.1	0	0	0	0
RX	18	2963	12	606	4	726	7	501

RX ACTIVITY:

The fall of 2006 was very tough for the prescribed fire program due to very wet weather with September being the wettest in nine years. However early spring provided good windows for burning which was used to our advantage burning 2034 of our 3569 acres on the Forest and all 501 acres on the refuge. Total acres burned on the Shawnee were 3569 from 30 RX projects. Midewin National Tall Grass Prairie had 4 burns for 726 acres and Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge burned 501 acres in 7 RX projects.



Conclusion:

Even though 2006 saw many changes within the local fire arena, the coordination center met all the needs that were requested of it. Participation within the region was excellent with ILC sending 3 individuals 5 times up to the GACC to assist with their work load. This was a huge building ground for future GACC participation. In fact the GACC also called on ILC to assist them while they were at the National GACC Conference in December and for coverage during the holiday break transferring daily workload activities. ILC also is participating as a member of the Regional Dispatch Working Team as well as assisting other regions in training efforts.

A building on Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge was the chose location for the new Illinois Interagency Dispatch Centers relocation. All parties agreed to the building, and as of the end of 2006 the plans were up on a Northern Forest being designed into blue prints. The goal is to get the facility ready for the spring Fire Season.

Having two dispatchers was a huge addition to ILC. When the new Center Manager arrived in May, by the end of the summer, it was obvious that the work load was much more than one person can endure and still provide the field units, our cooperators, the Forest, the GACC and the Nation with the support necessary for effective, efficient, and safe services for extended periods of time.

With the dispatch center participating in more Regional and National activities, providing more services for the State of Illinois, working more closely with the Midewin National Tall Grass Prairie, and the US Fish and Wildlife service, it is imperative that we provide a professional, knowledgeable, and creative center they all can depend upon to meet their needs. I believe the Illinois Interagency Coordination Center meets those demands and I foresee a bright future and believe it will grow into a formidable asset for all agencies involved.

Molly A Campbell
Center Manager